

Oppose HB5363 (Gabel) to create bureaucracies in the Illinois Department of Public Health

*Efforts would require **unnecessary expenditures** to implement;
Conflicts with and undermines Human Services Commission Recommendations*

In April of 2011, the Human Services Commission (HSC) submitted a report to the Governor and the General Assembly to “recommend measures to ensure the sustainability of high quality human service delivery in the State of Illinois and make recommendations for achieving a system that will provide for the efficient and effective delivery of high quality human services.” **Composed of human services providers, state agency directors, advocates and representatives of organized labor, the Commission developed recommendations based on a set of broad principles. In making their recommendations, they explicitly considered the best interest of clients and communities, the infrastructure and capacity of state agencies to implement programs, and opportunities for efficiencies.**

The report recommended the reorganization of most of the programs in the Division of Community Health and Prevention within the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the transfer of a handful of others, such as Reproductive Health, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs from DHS to the Department of Public Health (DPH). Implementing the recommendations of the Commission will help to enhance the efficient coordination of care through more effective utilization of the existing infrastructure at DHS. Shifting most of the Maternal and Child Health, Early Childhood, Youth Development and many other programs from DHS to DPH, as mandated by HB5363, **would more than double the current budget and overwhelm the capacity of DPH, and so diminish the quality of programming delivered to Illinois residents.**

In the current fiscal climate and as we embark on the ambitious charge to develop results-oriented goals as part of Budgeting for Results, state government must maximize limited resources and demonstrate positive outcomes. These principles were the underpinnings of the Commission's report and have guided the leadership at DHS as they have moved forward with implementation. **Based on the 2011 recommendations of the HSC, DHS has consolidated two divisions into one so as to further integrate operations and enhance administrative efficiency.** House Bill 5363 would undo this effort, diminish services to children and families, and undermine Illinois's priority of effective and efficient programs.

Please oppose HB5363.

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